

From: Bonnie Cox
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/2/01 2:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

DO NOT... I Repeat DO NOT ALLOW MICROSOFT TO GET OFF WITH SUCH AN INEXPENSIVE, NON-PUNATIVE SETTLEMENT AFTER BECOMING A BIGGER MONOPOLISTIC BUSINESS IN THE U.S. THAN ANY OIL COMPANY EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEING!!!

I am a programmer/analyst and I feel that Bill Gates Billions really belongs to every computer owner in the world!

Through the use of glorified blackmail to manufacturers, he made is billions; and we, the consumer, have had to live with Microsoft's operating system ever since. We were not given the options for an operating system as we are now with web browsers; and this should have always been an option in a free enterprise environment that the United States claims to be! Because the personal computer market was a new thing, and IBM was under scrutiny for anti-trust violations, when Microsoft was demanding their DOS operating system be the only one on computers, is no excuse for the consumer to have to be stuck with an inferior product permanently. Microsoft was never playing on a level playing field once DOS was established as a unregulated monopoly-- and I thought all things were suppose to be fair for all who wanted to compete in our capitalistic economy. IBM was under Federal Oversight at this time, as the government tried to keep them from being so monopolistic; yet Microsoft was never taken seriously enough to have the same strict regulations apply to them!

I feel it is the government's responsibility to make Microsoft PAY BIG TIME for their greed and misuse of consumer confidence. If you can restrict IBM, why didn't the government restrict Microsoft??

Microsoft has lost in court, and lost all the appeals that have been set before the courts. If they are not SEVERELY punished and this SEVERE punishment made known to the public, we can only assume it is due to the change in administration since the guilty verdict was rendered. If this is true, and the Republican big-business backers are the reason Bill Gates and Company get off the hook, what signal is this sending to the American consumer and the world. The consumer means nothing... it's all about money??

The only way I would agree to the government allowing this settlement to stand --1.1 billion dollars--is if there is an added penalty. Since the aforementioned settlement is really just chump change to Microsoft-- given the wholesale cost of the software is much, much less than this to them; and the PC program is PC's that there were getting rid of anyway--where is the punishment here??! How convenient is this? Where is the prevention of abuse of monopolistic power that I thought was law

in this country?? In reality, there is absolutely none being applied here!!.

So I propose and added penalty and give you two options:

1. Bill Gates and Microsoft have to totally fund the War on Terrorism Worldwide!!

This punishment for their crime of making the money illegally worldwide, would be used for the civic good of all.

Or 2. If you don't think number one is feasible, then at least make the penalty something that costs them about \$25-30 billion is REAL loss-CASH;

wholesale marked up to retail prices in Microsoft products is not acceptable!!

Thank you for your time,
Bonnie Cox